

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 24th August 1901.

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Report of the NATIVE-GUARD INVESTIGATION IN 1964

THE

Work of the Native-Guard in 1964

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2190. Referring to the opinions expressed by English Radicals and Irish Nationalists on the grant to Earl Roberts, the *Indian Mirror* is of opinion that Mr. Keir Hardie was substantially right when he observed that Lord Roberts was more concerned with theatrical displays than with solid substantial work. Such was the *Mirror's* experience of Earl Roberts during his Indian career, and Mr. Dillon's remark that the Earl was a military politician is held to be specially true.

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th Aug. 1901.

2191. Reverting to the old rumours of probable Russian annexation of or the proclamation of a Protectorate over Tibet, which would enable Russia to exercise a decisive voice in the affairs of China, besides menacing India, the *Bengalee* remarks that a Russian trading mission of 20 men was recently attacked in Tibet, half the men being shot down and the rest dangerously wounded.

BENGALÉE,
18th Aug. 1901.

Satisfaction will now be demanded, says the *Bengalee*, and the flag will in due course follow trade, as it has followed the Bible in other climes. "What a fate for the classic land of cloisters and monasteries!"

2192. The *Indian Mirror*, in a lengthy article on the Japanese and the Indians, urges that if the latter are really desirous of improving their condition, they cannot do better than accept the former as their model. The Japanese system of education is pronounced excellent and suitable to India, and the people have shown that the achievement of greatness and glory is not confined to European countries, nor that Christianity alone can elevate a nation.

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th Aug. 1901.

A better knowledge of Japan and her people is strongly recommended, and it is suggested that every month, for the present at least, two young men should be sent there from India for education; while grown up and educated people should lose no opportunity of visiting the country so as to get at the secret springs of the nation's success. The Japanese should also be invited here; and intimate relations should be established with them.

Two Committees will shortly be formed in each country to facilitate the endeavours of Indian visitors.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2193. The *Anrita Bazar Patrika* is of opinion that Magistrates are the real rulers of India, and it is in their power to make the British rule either a blessing or a curse.

ANRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1901.

As an example of this it quotes the case of Babu Kedar Nath, a leading pleader of Agra, who, for the benefit of pilgrims, built a drinking trough on the Muttra Dig road near Gobardhone. The Magistrate, considering the trough an encroachment on the public road, ordered its demolition, notwithstanding the fact that two members of a jury of five declared that it had been built on Kedar Babu's own land. The latter instituted a civil case to establish his claim to the land, and appealed to the District Judge to restrain the Magistrate. The Judge declared that the trough was not inconveniencing the public and asked the Magistrate to suspend his order of destruction until the decision of the civil suit, adding that if the Magistrate would not agree to this course he (the Judge) would refer the matter to the High Court.

This act of the Magistrate suggests *zid*, and such an attitude on the part of a high officer, throws the subject people of India into despair.

2194. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Bengalee* again refers to the *Mohurrum* case and mentions that "after the so-called riot it was universally believed here that

BENGALÉE,
18th Aug. 1901.

several innocent people had been killed and several wounded that night. A dead body was found immediately after the riot and it was sent for *post-mortem* examination."

The correspondent then gives the Court Sub-Inspector's report and the *post-mortem* report. In the latter certain abrasions are mentioned, but the verdict is that deceased died of cholera.

The correspondent concludes:—"It is said that this man had died of cholera. This conclusion and the fact that there were marks of violence on the dead body are what the lay public cannot understand."

BENGALÉE,
18th Aug. 1901.

2195. The Krishnagar correspondent of the *Bengalée* complains against the rotten state of the Police administration in that town. Regular bands of burglars and *badmashes* are being permitted to cause great mischief to the rich and middle classes, with the result that the residents are panic-stricken at the reign of terror which is prevailing. A dacoity and several thefts have taken place without anything being done by the police. Those who have guns are comparatively safe, and respectable young men patrol the streets at night and take up the duties of policemen without any remuneration.

The constant changes of Magistrates, Judges, and Police Superintendents are to a certain extent responsible for the state of affairs, and prompt attention is invited to remedy existing evils.

BENGALÉE,
20th Aug. 1901.

2196. The *Bengalée* draws attention to a memorial addressed to the Viceroy by one Bhairo Mull, whose son Bisoo Mull was without any explanation expelled from the Dinapore Cantonment by the military authorities, with the result that the father, Bhairo, incurred a loss of nearly Rs. 3,000. The Commanding Officer in Cantonments is vested with power of expulsion from British territory (*sic*), but it should never be exercised without the strongest justification, as the superior officer may unconsciously make himself the tool of some designing underling who has an object of his own to promote or an old grudge to satisfy.

In this case serious allegations are made against a Police officer, Inspector Campbell, who is suspected of being at the bottom of the affair.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Aug. 1901.

2197. Writing on the subject of Bhairo Mull's petition against his son's expulsion from the Dinapore Cantonment (which contains serious allegations against Police Inspector Campbell), the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses a hope that Lord Curzon will make a sifting enquiry into the matter and earn the gratitude of the people by modifying the Cantonment Act.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1901.

2198. The conduct of Mr. Holmwood, District Judge of Gaya, in the case of Mr. Aldam *versus* the guardians of the minors of Husia, is strongly criticised by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Mr. Aldam was appointed Manager of the estate by Mr. Holmwood at the request of the guardians, but as his management proved unsatisfactory they applied for his removal. Instead of removing him, the District Judge is helping Mr. Aldam to retain his post, with the result that litigation is threatening to ruin the minors.

This rising scandal should be nipped in the bud, and Government should enquire why so many private estates of helpless minors are placed in the hands of single men like Mr. Aldam. It is a gross wrong to the natives of the soil that Europeans are selected for such appointments when there are hundreds of highly educated Indians.

EAST,
17th Aug. 1901.

2199. The *East* expresses its surprise at the acquittal on appeal of Amjad, father of Osman Ali's son-in-law, who was convicted and sentenced on charges of perjury in connection with the famous Noakhali trial. His actual relationship with Osman Ali, daroga, is no longer a secret.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Aug. 1901.

2200. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites a case in which a retired Deputy Magistrate was needlessly arraigned on a serious criminal charge, and had to suffer all the incidental miseries in consequence of the issue of summons against him without any enquiry.

The writer repeats that "the Government would remove a most fruitful source of the people's sufferings if it prevented Magistrates from issuing processes without due enquiry. If the law is to be amended for the purpose, the legislature should be put in motion."

2201. The *Indian Empire*, commenting on the decision in the Nasik soldiers' case, expresses doubts as to whether the Magistrate adequately appreciated the grave nature of the provocation given, viz., the assault on the woman Chandri.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
20th Aug. 1901.

2202. The Chief Commissioner of Assam's attention is drawn by the *Bengalee* to the doings of Major Shakespeare, Superintendent of Fort Aijal, who is reported to be ignoring law and procedure and condemning, not on legally admissible evidence, but on surmises and suspicions.

BENGALÉE,
20th Aug. 1901.

(d)—Education.

2203. *Power and Guardian* severely criticises Bishop Welldon's views on education and religion, and says that any attempt at introducing Christianity in the manner suggested, would be a suicidal departure from, and directly opposed to, the established policy of the Government, viz., that of non-interference with the various religious and social customs of the races in India, which more than the British bayonet has solidified and strengthened the foundations of the Empire.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
11th Aug. 1901.

2204. In publishing a portion of Dr. Whitehead's speech on Religion and Education, the *Behar News* urges the importance of imparting religious instruction to Indian students, and proposes that educational institutions of Bengal should adopt the line introduced by Miss Annie Besant in her Central Hindu College. Indian leaders of public opinion should regard the present divorce between education and religion as serious and dangerous, morally, socially and politically. The National Congress should remedy the failing, as education concerns the whole nation and its wellbeing.

BEHAR NEWS,
17th Aug. 1901.

2205. The *East* deplores the policy of Government in withdrawing itself from the important work of education, to encourage the people to undertake it as private enterprise. Formerly the Government officials, by the personal interest they displayed in the matter of education, exercised a healthy moral influence on teachers and students alike. The present attitude of Government has greatly affected the spirit of the educational system in the country. A radical change is needed, and Oxford and Cambridge men as specialists in educational matters should be entrusted with sole charge of the Education Department; and teachers and professors should have further training and pass an examination before being appointed in schools and colleges.

EAST,
17th Aug. 1901.

2206. The *Bengalee* touching upon the striking percentage of failures at the B. A. examination, urges a serious enquiry, as such lack of success will have a most disastrous effect upon high education in Bengal.

BENGALÉE,
17th Aug. 1901.

2207. The *Indian Nation* refers to the case of the Hooghly boy, whose success in the B. A. examination has been recently announced, and brings to light another instance of injustice, in which the papers of a candidate for honours in mathematics were sent to the examiner of pass-papers. The error was discovered at the last moment when the examiner of honour papers had barely sufficient time to look over them. If candidates are to have more justice than at present, the procedure has to be altered, and after publication of results, candidates on payment of a fee should be allowed to have their papers re-examined within a given time, and on a certificate from their Principals that the marks in a particular subject are much below expectation.

INDIAN NATION,
19th Aug. 1901.

2208. The *Bengalee* enquires why no unofficial expert from Bengal has been invited to attend the forthcoming Educational Conference at Simla.

BENGALÉE,
20th Aug. 1901.

(e)—Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

2209. As an instance of further municipal bungling, the *Bengalee* points to the fee of Rs. 1,500 a month paid to Messrs. Sanderson and Company for the purpose of helping

BENGALÉE,
18th Aug. 1901.

the Corporation in the disposal of cases involving legal technicalities, when a whole-time junior barrister or pleader possessing sound legal knowledge and capacity for business, can be had for half the sum. This suggestion should be considered on the termination of the agreement with Messrs. Sanderson and Company, as the arrangement will be economical and conducive to the best interests of the Corporation.

HINDOO PATRIOT
9th Aug. 1901.

2210. In comparison with the legal expenses formerly incurred, the *Hindoo Patriot* does not consider the salary paid to Messrs. Sanderson and Company by the Calcutta Corporation excessive. It is, however, of opinion that the legal works of the Corporation can be done with less expense, and that any other legal firm would accept the work for half the sum paid at present.

BENGALÉE,
20th Aug. 1901.

2211. The *Bengalée* points out numerous instances of gross negligence and misconduct of municipal officers, by which the Calcutta Corporation has suffered serious pecuniary losses, and complains that the responsible parties have escaped punishment. A case of culpable corruption, practised by a Warrant Department Inspector has, it appears, been practically condoned. The code of rules under preparation does not provide penal clauses to meet all such cases, and will be quite ineffective for the purpose of checking such blunders.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BEHAR NEWS,
17th Aug. 1901.

2212. A Purnea correspondent of the *Behar News* refers to the panic created by the change in the course of the Kosi river, which has already caused great destruction and damage, and points out that unless protective measures are taken in the cold weather there will be still greater danger and the civil station may also suffer.

EAST,
17th Aug. 1901.

2213. The *East* complains that while all important roads in Dacca are being repaired, the narrow streets and lanes, badly in need of thorough repairs, have been overlooked. These are used by the poorer classes of people, and it is incumbent on the Municipality to consider the health and convenience of the rich and poor alike. The latter are neglected owing to their having no representative in the Corporation.

BEHAR NEWS,
20th Aug. 1901.

2214. The *Behar News* writes as follows:—
Complaints have been received of inconvenience arising to people of the respectable classes for want of proper accommodation in the intermediate class of the train which runs between Bankipore junction and Gaya. Only two compartments are assigned to passengers of the intermediate class, while no special compartment is allotted for females. We hope the East Indian Railway authorities will look to this and try to remedy the want of a female compartment in the intermediate class.

(h)—*General.*

BENGALÉE,
16th Aug. 1901.

2215. The *Bengalée* says that, by the abolition of the sub-registry office at Bhatiari, the people will have to suffer not only great hardships, but inconvenience and expense. It strongly advocates the location of the office at Sitakunda, if its continuance at Bhatiari is not expedient, as its entire abolition will affect no less than 42 villages, and necessitate residents, desirous of getting deeds registered, taking with them identifiers at their own expense, over a distance of nearly 40 miles by rail to Chittagong.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th Aug. 1901.

2216. The *Hindoo Patriot* devotes a lengthy leader to the subject of the feeling aroused in connection with the election of a member of the British Indian Association to the local Council, and devoutly wishes for a reconciliation between the Calcutta and the mufassal zamindars in order that the election may be made a satisfactory one. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta 'Trades' Association, which enjoy this privilege,

exercise it in a manner that the British Indian Association would do well to imitate.

2217. The *Hindoo Patriot* does not think that Executive Engineers, under whom contractors are employed, should open or accept tenders for contracts. There ought to be a special officer appointed exclusively for this purpose. This change is advocated to ensure the removal of favouritism in the acceptance of contracts.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th Aug. 1901.

The writer then proceeds to speak of the contract system itself which, he says, is open to objection. He cannot understand how, if departmental estimates are so carefully prepared and no lesser estimates can be made, contractors can make such enormous deductions as they do in their tenders. Various inferences may be drawn from this fact, but the writer prefers not to indulge in wild speculations, and leaves the problem for those who are able to solve it.

2218. The *Behar Herald* is in favour of the King being crowned at Delhi or the event being celebrated by an Imperial assemblage held there or in Calcutta, provided the cost be defrayed by England, or shared between the two countries. The latter would be preferable if the financial condition of India were not so deplorable. There is need of displaying India's loyalty and showing that Indians expect their political aspirations will be satisfied under British rule, but the cost charged on this country may well be defrayed by the Princes and not the people.

BEHAR HERALD,
17th Aug. 1901.

2219. Referring to the opinion recorded by the Bengal Government against the separation of judicial and executive functions, the *Behar News* deprecates the discourteous remark about the National Congress and the *Vakil Raj*. It presumes that the hopelessness of the situation drove the Government to seek the advice of Mr. Monro, whose ideas are calculated to mislead and not to guide or instruct. The Government of India will doubtless appraise the opinion of the Government of Bengal at its true value.

BEHAR NEWS,
17th Aug. 1901.

2220. A correspondent, whose name is not given, in a letter to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which is not published in full, writes that a clerk connected with a Government office showed him the Government of Bengal's despatch on the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions, which he was willing to sell to a newspaper Editor for Rs. 500. The correspondent had a hasty glance at the document and learnt from it that among other things the Government was opposed to the separation, but suggested that District Magistrates should not interfere with the judicial independence of Subordinate Magistrates.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Aug. 1901.

The Editor thereupon remarks:—No clerk came to our office with the alleged document, so we cannot say whether it is a hoax or a genuine thing. But judging from the letter of the correspondent, the document, if really genuine, is not very valuable, as it contains sentiments not only not new, but commonplace.

2221. Referring to the Local Government's report as to the separation of judicial and executive functions, the *Indian Nation* enquires if the interests of justice and criminals (*sic*) are to be cast aside for the honour and glory of the District Magistrate. If the report were published the arguments in opposition to the scheme could be easily demolished. The Lieutenant-Governor appears to think that the country exists for the Civil Service.

INDIAN NATION,
19th Aug. 1901.

2222. The Government of India are often spoken of as "responsible authorities" by the present Secretary of State, but the *Behar Herald* fails to know to whom they are responsible, as the political leaders in England are indifferent to India's troubles and would rather that the country looked after its own affairs. This is deplorable, as India has not yet undergone a sufficient course of political training to manage her own affairs under England's suzerainty, and for the present the Government should be conducted on lines in accord with popular

BEHAR HERALD,
17th Aug. 1901.

sentiment and be strictly conformable to the wishes of the Parliament of Great Britain. It would improve British administration if each Indian Province sent one member to the Viceroy's Executive Council, and another to the Council of the Secretary of State for India.

INDIAN NATION,
19th Aug. 1901.

2223. The *Indian Nation* criticises the unsatisfactory manner in which municipalities and District Boards exercise their rights of election, and deprecates personal canvassing.

The reform needed in this direction, in these as well as other bodies, such as the Calcutta University and the Association of Zamindars, would be attained by vesting the franchise not in the corporate body, but in individuals of particular qualifications and status. The chief end in view should be to limit, as far as possible, the sphere of operations of the canvasser, who may be more energetic than scrupulous.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Aug. 1901.

2224. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* brings to notice the treatment afforded by the Excise authorities to Bama Churn Bagdi and some other Bagdis of Jafargunge in the Dacca district, who formerly held licenses for manufacturing country liquor for their own consumption.

Of late the Bagdis have been reduced to straitened circumstances and have been obliged to give up drinking and have not renewed their license. The Excise Sub-Inspector summoned the Bagdis and threatened to prosecute them, if they did not renew their license. They pleaded poverty and said they had no option but to give up drinking, but the Sub-Inspector reported the matter to his superior, and the Deputy Collector has served a notice on Bama Churn, who will have to travel 45 miles to explain why he will not drink and take out a license and thus help to increase the Government revenue.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th Aug. 1901.

2225. Writing on the subject of the Indian Budget in Parliament, the *Indian Mirror* challenges the Secretary of State's remark as to the statement being a very satisfactory one, and insinuates that the surplus is an artificial creation of our Finance Ministers, who have thus tried to prove increasing prosperity of a population among whom small famines are chronic and hundreds of thousands of whom are periodically swept away by the greater "famines of the century."

The British intentions are unselfish, but those of the Indian agitator must necessarily be selfish. In respect of the Bombay Land Revenue Bill, the Secretary of State said that there was only a money-lending agitation against it, but the facts are all the other way.

BENGALIEE,
21st Aug. 1901.

2226. In referring to the formal discussion of the Indian Budget in Parliament, the *Bengalee* complains of the spirit of indifference displayed in dealing with Indian affairs and contrasts it with the efforts made to conciliate the colonies. Indians still stand outside the pale of Imperial justice and benevolence although it is the duty of the rulers to take note of and remove any real grievance.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Aug. 1901.

2227. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* enquires in whose interests the Bankura district is to be dismembered by Government, as the people are doing all they can to protest against what they regard as an unmitigated misfortune. The Government will only accord them a hearing when the scheme is developed, and the affair has advanced too far for withdrawal. Thus a measure is practically passed before it is discussed with the people.

The Lieutenant-Governor should hear what the Bankura people have to say on the subject.

BENGALIEE,
16th Aug. 1901.

III.—LEGISLATION.

2228. The hasty passing of the Bill to amend the Bombay Land Revenue Code of 1879, has, says the *Bengalee*, evoked universal opposition among agriculturists,

as the substance of the Bill is detrimental to the interest of the land-owners, and converts the raiyat into an agricultural labourer. In view of the fact that the people have just recovered from the effects of a succession of bad years, the *Bengalee* thinks the time chosen for the change in the law most inopportune.

2229. The deplorable condition of the famine-stricken peasantry has, writes the *Bengalee*, at last aroused the Government. Their Agrarian legislation in Bombay. attention was repeatedly drawn, without result, to the growing impoverishment of the cultivator by reason of the rack-renting character of the land revenue demand in many provinces. The Government affected to be blind, but among the many desirous of opening their eyes was one, who in 1883 warned them in the columns of the *London Spectator* of what he rightly called "the great Indian danger," exposing to view the state the peasantry were then in. The Bengal Tenancy Act and the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act introduced to allay agrarian disturbances, have not improved matters in the least, and the situation has been going from bad to worse. Government will not cope with the growing evil by instituting necessary radical reforms in the land revenue policy of the country. The condition of the raiyat has so far deteriorated since 1880 that at present in a season of bad harvest he has not enough money to buy food for his daily subsistence, and resorts to the money-lender for his requirements. Mere legislation without removal of the true cause of agricultural deterioration and indebtedness, is worse than useless.

BENGALIE,
21st Aug. 1901.

2230. The *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that the agitation against the Bombay Land Revenue Bill, which is being hurried through the local Council, proves that it has not been got up by money-lenders. India should, on principle, protest against such hasty legislation. In the present case the Bill will alter the existing land-tenure of the Presidency, and such an important change should not be effected without due consideration. In fact the *Patriot* is of opinion that the Supreme Legislative Council ought to deal with the subject, and after what has been said by the Poona and Salsette memorialists and others, it behoves the Government either to postpone the second reading of the Bill, or to abandon it entirely.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd Aug. 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2231. The *Bengalee* again brings to the notice of Government the distressed state of the poverty-stricken people of Distress in Uluberia subdivision. Uluberia, and urges that relief-works be opened for their benefit with as little delay as possible.

BENGALIE,
16th Aug. 1901.

2232. The Midnapore correspondent of the *Bengalee* reports that distress is prevailing in several villages near Ghatal, where Distress in Ghatal. men, women and children are subsisting on the *syama* grass-seeds found in fields. The well-to-do people of the district have not yet shown any signs of compassion for the starved and destitute.

BENGALIE,
20th Aug. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2233. The *Moslem Chronicle* in praising the chief aims of the Indian Congress as being for the material elevation of the people, says that the results so far have been nil, and will continue to be so while the Congress demands political rights for Indians. It goes on to say that in spite of their contact with Western civilization, the Indian people still adhere to the ancestral customs, which, together with caste considerations, have been the cause of their attaining a certain standard and no more. The main resource of the Indian peasantry—agriculture—has been weakened by the too frequent recurrence of famines, and this peasantry, in spite of the immense natural wealth of the country from which they have been debarred by the tyranny of caste, have had, as shown by statistics, to depend entirely on foreign manufacture. This state of pauperism which is due to want of industrial development is, remarks the *Moslem Chronicle*, of the last importance, and has received no attention from the Congressists, or the political reformers of India.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
19th Aug. 1901.

2234. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the new Zamindars' Association started from the 15th instant, promises to be really representative of the landholding classes in this Province. Its promoters deserve the gratitude of the country. It is to be hoped the British Indian Association

AMRITA BAZAR,
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1901.

and the new body will not prove antagonistic, but vie with each other only in doing good to the country.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Aug 1901.

2235. Referring to the Association of the mufassal zamindars newly established under the auspices of the Maharajahs of Cossimbazar and Mymensingh, under the name and style of "The Bengal Landholders' Association," the *Indian Mirror* takes occasion to remark that the secession of the mufassal members of the British Indian Association has made it plain that, among other things, the action of the Bengal Government in inviting the British Indian Association to elect a zamindar representative to the Bengal Council, was *ultra vires* and illegal.

It publishes a synopsis of the business done at the preliminary meeting of the new Association from which the following particulars are gathered :—

The Association which is limited to the class of landholders, will start a Club to which persons of position, culture and education may be admitted as members. It will be located for the present at 226-1, Lower Circular Road. It is said that the Association starts with a fund of two lakhs of rupees of which the greater part has been covered.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
27th Aug. 1901.

2236. The *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that the combined influence of the great middle class and the landed aristocracy of Bengal will make the new Landholders' Association a most powerful body, and as it starts under such

Ibid.

favourable conditions, there is every reason to hope that it will be a magnificent success. The unification of the Hindu and Muhammadan element in its constitution is a great advantage, and it is a matter of rejoicing that the two creeds have combined for a political purpose at a time when such combination seemed impossible.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1901.

2237. Referring to the question of legality of the bestowal of the franchise on the British Indian Association, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes the statement of Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose in his speech at the inaugural meeting of the new Zamindars' Association. It would appear that the action of the Government is not legal, and the result of the election may be disputed by anyone in a court of law. The Officiating Chief Secretary seems aware of this and has sought the opinions of the legal advisers of Government. All complications might have been avoided if a mufassal candidate had been elected by the Committee of the British Indian Association.

BENGALEE,
18th Aug. 1901.

2238. The *Bengalee* condemns the decision of the British Indian Association in fixing 8th November next as the date of the election meeting, for the delay prolongs the bitter controversy which should have been terminated as soon as possible, and the date occurs during the *Puja* vacation (?), and is followed immediately by two consecutive close holidays. The public and the Government have a right to know the reason of this delay, as it seriously inconveniences mufassal zamindars.

The 24th September being the day on which the annual meeting of the Association takes place is recommended as suitable for the election.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Aug. 1901.

2239. The following is an extract from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :—

The British Indian Association. The Committee of the British Indian Association have committed a further blunder by fixing the date of the meeting to elect the zamindari member two days before the *Dewali* or the *Kali Puja*. This means that many mufassal zamindars will not be able to take part in its proceedings; and thus the gulf between them and the Calcutta zamindars will be still more widened. We hear that some of the mufassal zamindars of the Committee objected to this proposal, but they were outvoted. The friction is thus getting more and more keen day by day. As regards the defaulting members, whose names were struck off, it was proposed by the Calcutta members that their names should be removed under rule 12 of the Association. But this was strongly opposed by the mufassal members, and it was decided ultimately that they should be simply asked to pay their arrears of subscription, but their names should not be struck off under rule 12. This is a good decision, but the best interests of the country would be served if the

franchise conferred on the British Indian Association were withdrawn by Government, for it has proved a veritable apple of discord.

2240. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that the attitude of the British Indian Association throughout the recent controversy showed that they meant fight, and they got it. The result is we have now two Zamindari Associations instead of one. We ought to have one strong Association and not two weak ones. It rests with the British Indian Association to heal the present breach. Sir John Woodburn, too, who is responsible for the breach though he acted from the best motives, should try to bring about a reconciliation.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Aug. 1901.

2241. The *Hindoo Patriot* reports the likelihood of a reconciliation between the two Associations, as the result of the intervention of two Bengal Noblemen. This is important, as there are two questions before the Government at present, which materially affect the zamindars, and need their undivided attention.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
21st Aug. 1901.

The Calcutta and the mufassal zamindars.

2242. The *Bengalee* in praising the good sense and high mindedness of the heads of the Local as well as the Imperial Governments for not recommending Mr. Pennell's dismissal on the ground of his judgment, thinks that it is painful to reflect that he is to be punished for horse-whipping a Burman a decade ago.

BENGALIEE,
17th Aug. 1901.

2243. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hopes the project for constructing a railway to India will never succeed. The Suez Canal, by filling India with office-seekers and weaning from the Indian the love of the Anglo-Indian, has caused immense loss to India, and has not even had the hoped-for effect of reducing the white garrison. If Englishmen are given the facility of running to India in six days, every indolent and ambitious man in England, and every man with a relative here, will run to this country for his means of livelihood.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Aug. 1901.

2244. A correspondent of the *Hindoo Patriot* writing on the industrial development of India, suggests the imposition of duties on all imported goods manufactured by English firms and on all grains exported from India to Europe. This would remove all complaints and the likelihood of famine. A portion of the amount collected for the Victoria Memorial could also be utilized for the permanent maintenance of a technical College, which would bring about prosperity and contentment in the land.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
20th Aug. 1901.

2245. The *Bengalee* is gratified to learn that lascar crews are to be continued on the Oriental Steamship Company's steamers, as, with regard to economy and efficiency, the lascar decidedly holds his own. It appears that an organised labour movement has been started in the Federal States for the insertion, in the Commonwealth Telegraph and Postal Bill now before Parliament, of conditions insisting that only whites shall be employed on subsidised mail-boats. "This" says the *Bengalee*, "is indeed prestige and prejudice run mad."

BENGALIEE,
21st Aug. 1901.

2246. Referring to the movement on foot of developing the consumption of tea in India, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses modified approval of the effort to encourage tea drinking among Indians, and considers the industry, being an indigenous one, deserves well of the country. The Indians have lost almost all their indigenous industries and they should be thankful to the Anglo-Indian planters for opening a new one, which provides food to tens of thousands of starving people. Besides this, more than one-twelfth of the business is owned by Indian gentlemen as proprietors or holders of tea shares. If some people look upon the industry as a curse rather than a blessing, it is because of the cruelty and oppression with which some of the planters treat their labourers. The planters should, to serve their own interest, accord their men more considerate treatment, and thus secure public confidence.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Aug. 1901.

Another reason why tea is not taken is the impression that it causes dyspepsia, but the greatest obstacle in the way of making the drink a popular one is the poverty of the people, who cannot afford even this little luxury.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd July 1901.

2247. Discussing the subject of selection of Indian guests for the King-Emperor's coronation ceremony, the *Hindoo Patriot* suggests that in addition to the ruling chiefs the aristocracy of the different Indian Provinces should be represented. Their presence with that of literary and scientific men, as well as political and religious leaders of the country, will doubtless be appreciated by the Sovereign and will add to the imposing character of the occasion.

BENGALIEE,
22nd Aug. 1901.

2248. A Noakhali correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* protesting against the article in the *Hitavadi* of the 9th August containing certain defamatory charges against Mr. Cargill, Magistrate of Noakhali. The correspondent declares the charges to be utterly false and informs the *Bengalee* that it is the duty of any Editor, before publishing imputations against responsible Government officers, to make a thorough enquiry regarding them.

On this correspondent's letter the *Bengalee* remarks:—"It is often our duty to criticise, and at times severely, the proceedings of our local officers. It is equally our duty, and we may add that it is with real pleasure we perform it, to open our columns for their vindication."

NOTE.—See paragraph 27 of Vernacular Newspaper report for week ending 17th August.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 24th August 1901.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.